

What? How? Why?

MISS ink experiment

What: This project included a one-minute short film and two small books. The title is a Chinese character 思(miss), which is made by two words 心(heart) and 田(farm). As personal understanding, "miss" is a sentiment constantly growing in mind, therefore in the video you will see the ink landscape with something rising up, such as trees growing and mountain raising. Meanwhile, the camera keeps moving forward, going deeper to the heart. The aesthetic is similar to traditional Chinese painting, however this ink jumped from 2D into 3D, and not like Maya ink, it still maintains its natural state and movements. In the two hand-made books, there are a group of photography showing the beautiful ink experiment results without any digital editing, to show the process and analogue filmed materials.

How: The first step is trying different ways to play with ink, and filming all the tests. Those footages are unpredictable, but surprisingly far beyond imagination. Afterwards, I did editing to compose the footages together, and add digital animation little by little. Each scene in the film was made after numbers of attempts and adjustments. In the end, I finished this film mixed with computer manipulated video and subtle animation.

Why: In the very beginning, it was inspired by my old illustration work , which combined real ink brush and digital strokes, showing a Chinese painting aesthetic. I started this project with the aim of exploring more about contemporary expressions of traditional culture. Then I found that Shui-mo(freehand ink and wash painting) is the most important category of Chinese Painting. That is why this project is purely focused on ink and water.

MISS photogram series

What: As a new part of MISS project, this group of photogram was made by some objects, which are twisted together or entwine into a confusing mass. The images are black and white, round or irregular oval shaped, and with red fingerprints, similar style as Chinese painting. In the exhibition while showing the project, there are ten A3-size printed pictures stuck on the wall, and three plates on the wooden

table displaying the materials used for making those photogram.

How: I used string, ribbon, hay to make mess images. Also decorated with some tiny materials like star anise, heart and flower shaped sequins to convey the sweet sentiments. I scanned the original photogram, then reverse the black and white in Photoshop, and edited into round or irregular oval shape, in order to make them into Chinese painting form. After printing out, I putted my red fingerprints on the papers, as a stamp of signature.

Why: They were made for an exhibition showing together with MISS ink experiment project. So the theme and aesthetic is similar to the ink video. However the photogram series are inspired by a piece of ancient Chinese poem, which expressing a longing feeling after parting from each other. The messy image is a response to the verse "like string, but I can't clip; like clew, but it in a mess".

Waiting for the Bus

What: The four-minutes, digital frame-by-frame drawing animated film "Waiting for the Bus" tells a fantasy childish story based on my real experience. It is about a lovely girl waiting at the bus stop for a whole day. During her time sitting on the bench, she met an impatient boy and a careless girl. Those three characters have very different personality and attitude, lead them to the different endings.

How: It was drew frame-by-frame digitally in Photoshop, and composed in After Effect. Mostly, the image is black and white with red in different value and purity. For some point, color is used to express the strong emotion and dramatic moments. These parts of images are painted with digital watercolor brush.

Why: I had an experience that waiting for a bus for more than three hours, after that I was thinking of my emotional changes, then got the idea to make it into animation and explore the expression of color. Also I thought it is a chance to improve storytelling skill and learn how to organize a comprehensive animation project. But I did not have sufficient time to make the film as perfect as I imagined, just to keep it as simple as possible. So the drawing is loose and brief, the story is compact.